

SCREENING KIT

VISION READINESS SCREENING AND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (VRCS)

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Outline

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- p.6 Vision Chart for 16 inches (download separately)
(only for soldiers Age 45+)



INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Vision Readiness Screening and Classification System (VRCS)

1. Purpose: To implement VRCS; making sure Soldiers are visually and optically ready for deployment.
2. Background.
 - a. Over the past decade, multiple studies reveal that a vast number of Soldiers are not visually or optically ready to deploy.
 - b. In 1995 DoD Health Affairs sought to quantify the vision readiness of our armed forces and to recommend a system to track and improve this readiness state.
 - c. As a result, a professional panel developed an automated, 4-tiered classification system requiring an annual vision screening for each service member. This system becomes policy in 2006, is similar to our dental classification system. A Soldier who is Class 1 or 2 will be deployable. A Soldier who is Class 3 or 4 is non-deployable.
 - d. Vision Readiness is a simple, but critical test during Soldier Readiness Processing. This classification system will provide commanders with a quantitative measure of their unit's vision readiness status. Additionally, it will also reduce surges in the DOD Optical Fabrication Enterprise and avoid the associated costs.
3. Current Status.
 - a. After approval by the Army Surgeon General's and coordination with the Army G-1 and G-3, and the implementation policy was disseminated to all Army units via an ALARACT message 090148Z Nov 04 (see enclosure). The yearlong period was provided by the message before the policy became effective. That end of the period is upon us, and the policy will prevail beginning in April 2006.
 - b. The policy includes requirements for documentation using DA Form 7425, "Readiness and Deployment Checklist" IAW AR 600-8-101. The capability to document Vision Readiness status in the Medical Protection System (MEDPROS) should now be in place. MEDPROS is fully capable of providing vision readiness reporting for the Army.

VISION READINESS SCREENING GUIDE:

VISION SCREENING IS COMPLETED AT THE UNIT LEVEL

The purpose of this guide is to assist unit screeners in performing the vision readiness screening and to guide MEDPROS users in recording vision readiness data.

POLICY: The vision readiness of each Soldier will be assessed at least annually.

NOTE: A Vision Screening is required annually, NOT a complete eye examination.

Vision Screening = vision tested by eye chart @ 20ft with both eyes open

Eye Examination = Ocular health and vision assessed by an eye doctor

VISION READINESS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Class 1: Soldiers whose best-corrected visual acuity is 20/20 or better while looking at the appropriate chart with both eyes open*. Additionally, to be Class 1, the Soldier must possess all required optical devices. ('best-corrected vision' means they MAY wear prescribed glasses for the test, if needed)

Class 2: Soldiers whose best-corrected visual acuity is worse than 20/20 but at least 20/40* while looking at the appropriate chart with both eyes open. Additionally, they must possess all required optical devices. Class 2 also includes individuals possessing a waiver for binocular visual acuity worse than 20/40. No corrective action is required.

Class 3: Soldiers who are either not optically ready and/or not visually ready:

Class 3-O: Not optically ready. Soldiers whose best-corrected vision is 20/40 or better, but who do not possess all their required optical devices.

Refer to Optometry to order more glasses

Class 3-V: Not visually ready. Soldiers whose best-corrected vision is worse than 20/40. They do not meet vision standards.

Refer to Optometry for an eye exam

Class 4: Soldiers who have not been screened within one year. Vision readiness screening is required.

Soldiers in Class 1 and Class 2 are deployable. Soldiers in class 3(O or V) or class 4 are non-deployable. Soldiers in Class 3 or 4 at the time of screening will immediately be reclassified in MEDPROS after obtaining corrective vision/optical services.

* NOTE: Soldiers over the age of 45 must meet this standard being tested on both near and far charts. The worse performance at distance or near governs the Class determination

For questions or concerns, contact the NCOIC of the Optometry Service at Thomas Moore Health Clinic (285-6305)

A more detailed description of the Vision Readiness Guide can be found at www.armyoptometry.com

Bottom Line:

1. The Unit does vision screening
2. Only CLASS 3 soldiers should be sent to your optometry service

How do we do the screening?

VISION SCREENING INSTRUCTIONS

SETUP

- ✓ Appropriate chart must be 20 feet away from testing line at eye level
- ✓ Good lighting is important
- ✓ No Contact Lenses are allowed (except Apache pilots)
- ✓ Each soldier who wears glasses should have 2 pairs of glasses and mask inserts (more if applicable)
- ✓ Soldiers that are age 45 or older must to be tested at 20 feet and 16 inches.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SOLDIER BEING TESTED

1. Without Glasses: read the smallest line of letters possible with BOTH eyes open.

CLASS 1 (GO): 20/20 (with or without glasses)

CLASS 2 (GO): 20/40 (with or without glasses)

Note: Although the soldier may have glasses prescribed, if they can read the 20/40 line or better WITHOUT glasses, at a minimum they would be class 2, and they do NOT need to be referred to optometry. At their own discretion, they can seek a renewed eyeglass prescription or more eyeglasses by self-appointing themselves to the optometry service, but they are not required to do this.

2. If the soldier is unable to read the 20/40 line correctly with their glasses OFF, then re-test the soldier with their glasses ON.

3. If the soldier is still unable to read the 20/40 line or better, OR if they don't have all the required glasses, they are:

CLASS 3 (NO-GO): Refer to Optometry

CLASS 3 O: means they don't have all the glasses required

Soldier needs to order more glasses

CLASS 3 V: means they don't see 20/40 or better with their glasses

Soldier needs an eye EXAM

For soldiers age 45 and above, repeat the testing from step 1 with the smaller eye chart at 16 inches. (Idea: tape the small chart to a clip-board.)

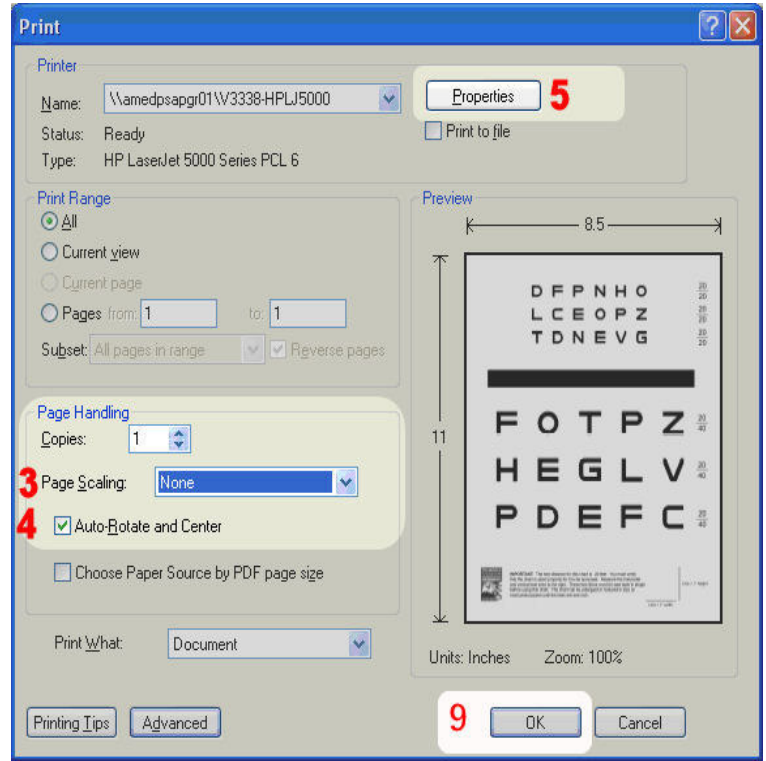
- Side note: if the soldier had to wear glasses to pass the test at 20 feet, then they must wear the same pair of glasses when being tested at 16 inches. This is because some soldiers can remove their glasses to read up close, but in a chemical environment, removing the inserts is not an option. This soldier will likely need bifocal lenses in their protective mask.
- *Idea:* It's a good idea to test all soldiers who do not wear glasses first. Then screen those who wear glasses. The screening process is most efficiently run when two screeners are assigned to manage crowd control. It is prudent to keep some distance between the Soldier being screened and the next in line to ensure the soldiers cannot simply repeat what they heard. Keep the chart out of view from those in line.

Eye Chart Print and Size Verification Instructions

Print Instructions

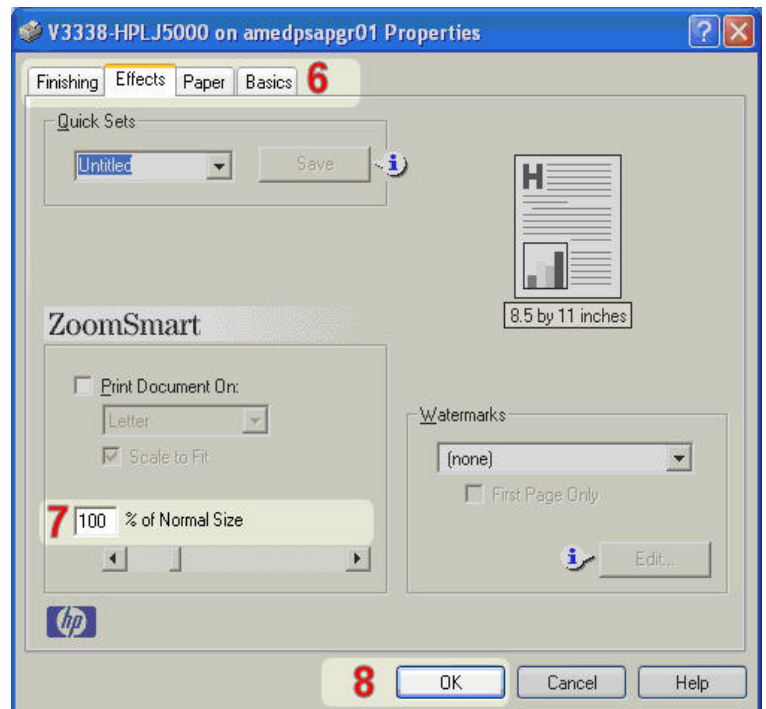
- 1) Open the eye chart in Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0 or higher
- 2) Select File>Print
- 3) In **Page Handling** section ensure **Page Scaling** is set to **None** (*this is critical for proper sizing*)
- 4) Check the **Auto-Rotate and Center** box
- 5) Select the **Properties** button (upper right)
- 6) Select **Effects** tab
- 7) In SmartZoom section ensure “Print Document on” check box is **not** selected and enter **100** in % of Normal Size.
- 8) Select **OK** at the bottom of the Effects tab.
- 9) Select **OK** at the bottom of Print page.

You must verify that the chart is sized properly before using it. Measure the horizontal and vertical test lines at the bottom of the chart. They must measure one inch in length before the chart can be used. The chart should be sized properly if the print instructions above are followed. If the test lines are not one inch follow the instructions below.



If the Chart is NOT Sized Properly

- 1) Ensure the print instructions above were followed and reprint. If the chart is still sized incorrectly go to step 2.
- 2) Resize the chart by selecting File>Print>Properties> Effects tab>
- 3) In the SmartZoom section alter the print size from 100% of Normal Size
- 4) Print the chart and measure the test lines
- 5) Continue making adjustments to the print size and printing the chart until the test lines measure one inch.
- 6) Alternately, the chart can be resized on most photocopiers until the test lines are one inch.



D F P N H O

$\frac{20}{20}$

L C E O P Z

$\frac{20}{20}$

T D N E V G

$\frac{20}{20}$



F O T P Z

$\frac{20}{40}$

H E G L V

$\frac{20}{40}$

P D E F C

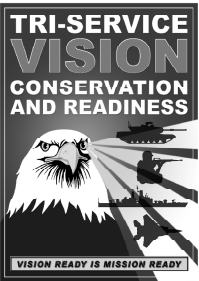
$\frac{20}{40}$



IMPORTANT: The test distance for this chart is *20 feet*. You must verify that the chart is sized properly for it to be accurate. The horizontal and vertical test lines to the right must measure one inch before using. The chart can be resized in Acrobat reader or on a photocopier if needed.

Line = 1" width

Line = 1" height



IMPORTANT: The test distance for this chart is *16 inches*. You must verify that the chart is sized properly for it to be accurate. The horizontal and vertical test lines to the right must measure one inch before using. The chart can be resized in Acrobat reader or on a photocopier if needed.

Line = 1" height

Line = 1" width

H V P C O Z	20
L R P T H	20
V L T D N E	
<hr/>	
P F Z O T	20
N F D O H	40
E G L C P	